

Career Building through English Language Enrichment

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ABSTRACT

English being an international language has created necessity of its learning. The students who are seeking employment opportunities must study it in depth and get themselves ready to face the examinations. When they get a foreign chance, they need to mingle with the foreigners. English is the only link language that can connect them with others. A thorough practice of English spoken in the U.K and the U.S.A will help them a lot. Through this article I want to touch upon various grammar aspects where much attention is to be paid. I strongly hope that this article will certainly help the student community to kindle their interests and aspirations.

Key words: necessity of learning, mingle with, link language, kindle their interests

INTRODUCTION

A sentence is a group of words that has a complete thought, meaning or idea. Grammar is the system and structure of a language. It refers to a set of rules that govern the structure of both written and spoken versions of a language. This includes the structure of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and whole texts. Every language has its own set of rules. In English language, it means the order in which words are placed. It is of two types. They are 1. Descriptive Grammar 2. Prescriptive Grammar. While the former refers to the structure of a language as it is actually used by speakers and writers, the latter refers to the structure of a language as certain people think it should be used. Both kinds have different kinds of rules.

Using correct grammar makes listening and reading easier for others to understand and it makes the communication process more enjoyable. It helps us in speaking and writing comfortably and confidently in any setting. In this essay I want to give insights on various useful grammar aspects, formal-informal shades and finally American versus British English-differences. Hope that these instructions will surely ignite the students' interests and help them to grow in their careers.

Steps to learn Grammar by the students- Main Points:

1. Parts of Speech: Students are given the knowledge about the parts of speech first. There are eight parts of speech in the English language. They are Noun, Pronoun, Verb, Adjective, Adverb, Preposition, Conjunction and Interjection. The part of speech indicates how the word functions in meaning as well as grammatically within the sentence.

After learning the Parts of Speech and types of Sentences, the students must learn Verb Tenses (Conjugation of Verbs). This is followed by learning of Basic Grammar Rules, English Sentence Structure, Sentence Formation and its completion. Determiners and Connectors are thoroughly learnt. Learning of Phrases and Clauses are compulsory because they add flavour to the language. Synthesis and Analysis of sentences must be thoroughly practiced. Punctuation plays a key role because misuse of it leads to wrong understanding. Let us see some points.

1. Punctuation: Students must be given primary knowledge about punctuation. Every sentence whether Prose or Poetry starts with a Capital letter. So also every sentence should end with a full stop or a question mark or a mark of exclamation. Wrong placement of a comma leads to death also as shown in the given example.

For example;

Leave not, hang him (He lost his life)



Leave, not hang him. (He is survived)

2. Word Order: Word order is one of the most fundamental aspects of English grammar. A typical English sentence consists of the word order Subject-Verb-Object (S-V-O). An Assertive sentence will have word order: Sub+verb. But an Interrogative sentence will have a reverse word order such as; Verb+Subject. In Imperative sentences, the sentence starts with a verb, so it turns into an order or command.

Raman is a scientist. –Statement

Is Raman a scientist? –Question

3. Concord: Every sentence should have Subject-Verb relation. If the subject is singular, the verb also must be singular. If the subject is plural, the verb also must be plural. This is called agreement or Concord. This is the golden rule in grammar. For this purpose, a list of singular nouns and plural nouns may be given to them. Look at the following example.

a. Bread and butter have become costly. (Wrong)

Bread and butter has become costly. (Right). (Subject is taken as singular)

b. These news are interesting. (Wrong)

This news is interesting. (Right) (Subject is taken as singular)

c. Ravi as well as Kiran have completed the task. (Wrong)

Ravi as well as Kiran has completed the task. (Right) (Subject is taken as singular)

d. The minister along with his followers do not visit the park. (Wrong)

The minister along with his followers does not visit the park. (Right) (Subject is taken as singular)

e. People is interested in chit chatting. (Wrong)

People are interested in chit chatting. (Right) (Subject is taken as plural)

f. This poultry is mine. (Wrong)

These poultry are mine. (Right)(Subject is taken as plural)

4. Auxiliary Verbs-Usage: Students are made to learn the usage of Auxiliary verbs. They are the structural words which help in the formation of various tenses. They are 'Be' forms, 'Have' forms, 'Do' forms and Modals.

For example: 1. 'Be' form +V3→Passive Voice (This may be introduced)

e.g: I was helped by him last night.

The books were sold at high price.

The film has been watched by all the students.

Example-2: 'Be' form +V1+ing →Continuous Tense

e.g: I am watering the plants. (The Present Continuous)

They were playing cricket at 10 a.m yesterday. (The Past Continuous)

Students must be taught the Modal Auxiliaries, their role in expressing different modes or moods. For example;

I shall come tomorrow. (Futurity)

Mohan can speak two languages. (Ability)

You must pay the amount. (obligation)

It may rain tonight (Probability)

5. Common Errors-Corrections.

Some speakers go against the prescribed rules and create errors. The students who appear for competitive examinations must know this and rectify them accordingly. These errors must be identified with keen insight. This will help them get through the competitive examinations. For example,

a. I bought a costly pen to my sister.(Wrong)

I bought a costly pen for my sister.(Right), but

I bought a costly pen to write the essay fast. (Right)

b. I met an European last Sunday. (Wrong)

I met a European last Sunday. (Right)

6. Formal and Informal Language Shades:

Students are made to know the difference between formal and informal English. Formal is less personal than informal language. Formal language is not casual. It is official in tone and used in writing for professional purposes. The students need to know this. While applying for jobs they should use formal English. The sentences are often written in Passive Voice. They are lengthy and complex.

On the other hand, Informal English is often colloquial, friendly and it contains short sentences and phrases. Here Active Voice is preferred. Informal education refers to learning that results from activities related to daily life experience, work, family etc. It is casual and relaxed like communication with friends. Expressions like “Here you are”, “There you go” “Take it” are informal. They are very easy to practice. The students may be encouraged to learn such small expressions and phrases to build up confidence among them.

Formal: My uncle recovered from his illness.

Informal: My uncle got over his illness.

Formal: We regret to inform you that the delivery will be delayed due to adverse weather conditions.

Informal: Sorry, but the delivery will be late because of bad weather.

Formal: You are requested to help me.

Informal: Help me, please.

Formal: You are gladly invited to attend my daughter’s marriage on 1st Aug, 2023.

Informal: Please attend my daughter’s marriage on 1st August.

A set of such expressions which are used in our day to day life may be given to them for practice. This will boost their spirits and enhance their enthusiasm. Comic books, post cards, text messages, anecdotal articles are all informal and they help the students communicate in English.

7. Classified Vocabulary Learning: As part of making the students enrich their vocabulary, they may be encouraged to learn varieties of flowers, animals, birds, vegetables, fruits, kitchen ware, dress patterns, colours etc. This will remove their fears and help them use freely in their talk. Nouns are like bricks and so knowledge of more nouns eases the conversation.

8. Sentence Pattern: When we speak, we exercise the power of language to transform reality. The construction of sentences requires some structural patterns. If these patterns are carefully studied, it will be easy to learn English. A typical English sentence consists of **Subject-Verb- Object** pattern. The students may be explained regarding which words are used in the place of the Subject and in the place of the Object. Nouns and Noun equivalents are used here. This knowledge will help them acquire clarity of expression and usage. In the place of the Verb, the required tense form should be used. So, a list of important verbs and their conjugations should be given to them for learning. This will help them use correct tense form of the verb Wherever needed.

9. Knowledge of Conditionals: Conditionals are very useful in spoken English. The students must be thorough with four conditionals. They are, Zero Conditional, Probable Conditional, Improbable/Imaginary Conditional and Impossible Conditional. If they are adept at using these conditionals thoroughly, they will become good speakers. For example, If+Sub+ V1 → Sub+Shall/will/can/may+V1. E.g: If you work hard, you will get good marks.

10. American English vrs British English: Now we have many Englishes throughout the world. But the dominant ones are the British and the American only by virtue of their domination. In the backdrop of American influence on the modern world, one needs to pay attention to American English thoroughly. In matters of pronunciation, grammar, spelling and punctuation one has to take much care and pay attention. Americans have their own idioms and vocabulary which should be thoroughly learnt. The students and job seekers in America must know the variations in English vocabulary and its usage. For example, in America ‘Flat’ is called ‘Apartment’. ‘Aeroplane’ becomes ‘Airplane’, ‘Postbox’ becomes ‘Mailbox’. ‘Timetable’ is called ‘Schedule’ and ‘holiday’ is called ‘vacation’. ‘Biscuits’ are called ‘cookies’. ‘Petrol’ is called ‘gas’ or ‘gasoline’. ‘Lift’ is called ‘elevator’.

In matters of spelling also we notice many changes. Silent letters are removed in American English. Bernard Shaw criticized American English as ‘Toasted English’ because Americans simplified the words by removing the complexity.

Some examples are, 'colour' 'honour' 'labour' are written in America as 'color', 'honor', and 'labor' respectively by removing 'u'. 'Travelling', 'modelling' are written as 'traveling' and 'modeling' by removing one 'l'. Word ending '-se' is replaced with '-ze'. For example, 'realise', 'analyse' are written as 'realize' and 'analyze' in American English. 'Centre' is written as 'center' and 'defence' is written as 'defense'. '-ue' endings are removed in words like 'catalogue' 'prologue' 'dialogue' etc. They become 'catalog', 'prolog' and 'dialog' respectively. In grammar also we can observe some changes in the verb forms. For example, 'got' and 'learnt' are the past participle forms of 'get' and 'learn' respectively. But in American English, they are written as 'gotten' and 'learned'.

In pronunciation also there are many observable changes. 'r' is pronounced in American English whereas it is dropped in British English. Indians are used to pronounce 'r' sound due to vernacular influence. Hence we can understand American English easily though we are habituated to write in British English. Things are changing now. In writing the "Resume", the students are now adopting American technique. The modern students have to understand all these variations if they want to succeed in their future course of life.

CONCLUSION

English being spoken all around the world has become, especially for the students whose main concern is to have good job with good pay, necessary for good settlement now-a-days. In the competitive examinations, they will be tested in English language with both objective and descriptive questions. That's why I strongly hope that this article will make them rise from slumber and show them a way to prepare well for themselves.

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